

## Big Bang: Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra



**COMPOSER:** Andrew Staniland  
**SOLOIST:** Aiyun Huang

As used by cosmologists, the term “Big Bang” refers to the theory that the universe began with an explosion and continues to expand outward from its original center.

*Big Bang* was commissioned by CBC Radio Two and premiered by the Esprit Orchestra under the direction of Alex Pauk, with Aiyun Huang as soloist on March 26, 2009.

“This idea has long captured my creative imagination. I found this percussion concerto to be the perfect place to experiment with using this idea in terms of form. The work is in what I have come to term “anti-form”, in that is backwards from the normal musical

model. The first movement of the work is the big bang — loud, heterophonic cacophony. This gives way to a second movement, “Cadenza”, featuring virtuoso multi-percussion. The third movement, entitled “Credo”, is a soft and slowly undulating piece that slowly fades away — a homage to the “big chill” — a theory that postulates the fading, cooling fate of the universe. In the “Credo”, the orchestra quietly sings modified Latin excerpts from the liturgical *Credo*, with all overtly religious references removed and replaced: “I believe in one God omnipotent”, becomes “I believe in one earth”. —Andrew Staniland

### INSTRUMENTATION

2222.2200 2 percussionists, piano, harp, orchestra strings & solo percussion.  
Duration: ca. 17 minutes.

### ANDREW STANILAND

*The New Yorker* magazine has described Andrew Staniland’s work as “an alternately beautiful and terrifying instrumental meditation”. His music is regularly heard on CBC Radio 2 and

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has been broadcast internationally in over 35 countries.

From 2006 – 2009 Andrew Staniland served as affiliate composer to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He has also been in residence at the Centre du Creation Musicale Iannis Xenakis (Paris, 2005) and affiliate composer to the Canadian National Arts Centre Orchestra (Ottawa, 2002-2004). New projects involve Les Percussions De Strasbourg, Duo Concertante, and New Music Concerts.

### AIYUN HUANG

Aiyun Huang is devoted to the creation of new works for percussion, having commissioned new works from composers in the U.K., Canada, the US and Taiwan.

Born in Taiwan, Ms. Huang immigrated to Canada when she was seventeen to study with members of Nexus. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours from the University of Toronto, a Premier Prix from Conservatoire Nationale de Région de Rueil-Malmaison in France, and an MA and a DMA degree from the University of California, San Diego. Between 2004

and 2006, she was a Faculty Fellow at the University of California, San Diego. Currently, she is a professor and the Chair of the Percussion Area at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Aiyun Huang was winner of the First Prize as well as the Audience Award (Prix du Public) at the 2002 Geneva International Music Competition. She has appeared at the Weill Recital Hall of the Carnegie Hall, on the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra’s Green Umbrella Series, the LACMA Concert Series, at the Holland Festival, and in the National Concert Hall and Theater in Taipei.

Between 1997 and 2006, she was a member of red fish blue fish under the direction of Steven Schick. Her current chamber music projects include Toca Loca with pianists Gregory Oh and Simon Docking, and Ensemble Meduse featuring interdisciplinary works. Her recent European solo tour included cities of Geneva, Lyon, Paris, Katowice, Budapest, Bratislava, and Milan in the fall of 2004.

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